

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scanning station for scanning film having a coating of processing solution, comprising:
at least one point light source operable to produce light that is focused into a
5 point of light onto the film; and
at least one sensor system operable to measure light from the film.
2. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein at least one point light source comprises a laser.
3. The scanning station of Claim 2, wherein the laser comprises a near
10 infrared laser.
4. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein the point light source produces visible light.
5. The scanning station of Claim 4, wherein the point light source produces blue light.
- 15 6. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein the point light source produces infrared light.
7. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein the point light source produces polarized light and the sensor system includes a polarizing filter.
8. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein the sensor system comprises
20 a detector and a collector.
9. The scanning station of Claim 8, wherein the collector comprises a shaped collector having a substantially ellipsoid shape.

10. The scanning station of Claim 9, wherein the shaped collector includes a window and a trap.

11. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein the at least one point light
5 source comprises a first point light source operable to illuminate a first side of the film, and a second point light source operable to illuminate a second side of the film.

12. The scanning station of Claim 11, wherein the first point light source is operable to emit light within a first frequency band, and the second point light source is operable to emit light within a second frequency band.

13. The scanning station of Claim 1, wherein the point light source includes an oscillator operable to produce modulated light, and the sensor system includes a filter operable to isolate the modulation signal.

14. A digital film processing system for developing and scanning film to
15 produce a digital negative of an image captured on the film, the system comprising:
a development system operable to coat a processing solution on the film;
a scanning system operable to scan the coated film using at least one point light source and produce sensor data; and
a data processing system operable to receive the sensor data and calculate the
20 digital negative.

15. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein the development system includes at least one slot coater applicator.

16. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein the development system includes a halt station.

17. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein the processing
25 solution comprises a developer.

18. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein at least one of the point light sources comprises a laser.

19. The digital film processing system of Claim 18, wherein the laser comprises a near infrared laser.

5 20. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein at least one point light sources produces visible light.

21. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein at least one of the point light sources produces polarized light and a sensor system includes a polarizing filter.

10 22. The digital film processing system of Claim 14, wherein the scanning system includes a sensor system having a detector and a collector.

23. The digital film processing system of Claim 22, wherein the collector comprises a shaped collector having a substantially ellipsoid shape.

24. A method for digitizing an image on a film coated with a processing
15 solution, the method comprising:
illuminating the coated film with light from at least one point light source;
measuring the light from the coated film and producing sensor data; and
processing the sensor data to produce a digital image

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the light includes infrared light.

20 26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the light includes red light, blue light, and infrared light.

27. The method of Claim 24, wherein measuring the light comprises focusing the light from the coated film using a shaped collector onto a detector that produces sensor data in response to the intensity of light impinging the detector.

28. The method of Claim 24, further comprising coating the processing
5 solution to the film.

29. The method of Claim 28, wherein the processing solution is coated on the film using a slot coater applicator.

30. The method of Claim 24, wherein the processing solution comprises a developer.

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